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From: Peterson, Cynthia
Sent: Thur 8/6/2015 11:27:06 PM
Subject: FW: Silverton Standard 8-6-2015 - EPA announcement

See link below.

Cynthia Peterson

Community Involvement Coordinator

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

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From: Frederick, Lydia **On Behalf Of** Library-Reg8
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:20 AM
To: Peterson, Cynthia
Subject: Fw: Silverton Standard 8-6-2015 - EPA announcement

Cynthia,

EPA has issued a statement. See below.

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Lydia Frederick, Supervisory Librarian

Contractor

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From: Silverton Standard and the Miner <silvertonsubscriptions@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 9:47 AM

To: Silverton Standard

Subject: Silverton Standard 8-6-2015

<https://thesilvertonstandardtheminer.sharefile.com/d-s20dab90161f402f8>

EPA statement released late Wednesday:

EPA Statement This morning at approximately 10:30 am, an EPA and State Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety team working to investigate and address contamination at the GoldKing Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of minewaste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that therelease contained

approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behindunconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers atthe site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containingsediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through CementCreek and into the Animas River. The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment has notified waterusers downstream of the release so they can take appropriate steps to turn offintakes until the contaminated water passes. The Town of Silverton does not takewater out of the affected portions of Cement Creek. Due to current and longstandingwater quality impairment associated with heavy metals there are no fish populationsin the Cement Creek watershed and populations in the Animas River have historicallybeen impaired for several miles downstream of Silverton. Over the next severaldays, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirmthat the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life orwater users. "This unfortunate incident underscores the very reason EPA and the State of Coloradoare focused on addressing the environmental risks at abandoned mine sites," saidDavid Ostrander, director of EPA's emergency response program in Denver. "We arethankful that the personnel working on this mine cleanup project were unharmed. EPAwill be assessing downstream conditions to ensure any impacts and concerns areaddressed, as necessary."

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